

Council of Academic Societies

October 2011 Report

The Council of Academic Societies (CAS) is one of the three leadership councils of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), along with the Council of Deans and the Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems. The CAS is presently comprised of nearly 90 academic societies devoted to biomedical and behavioral research, medical education, and patient care. The CAS, though diverse in membership, is a powerful forum for discussing and exchanging information of common interest to medical school faculty and for evaluating and recommending policy initiatives to the Association. Each CAS member society may designate two representatives to the CAS, which meets semi-annually; once during the AAMC annual meeting in the fall and separately in the spring.

The CAS elects its own chairperson. The current chair (2010-2011) is James M. Crawford, M.D., Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and Senior Vice President for Laboratory Services, at the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System (NSLIJHS). CAS representatives elect 12 of their colleagues to serve on the CAS Administrative Board, which formulates the programs of the full Council and acts on its behalf on Association business and policy initiatives.

Recent topics considered by the CAS Administrative Board include:

- A review of AAMC's strategic goals and objectives related to discovery;
- A discussion and critique of a tool to assess AAMC member satisfaction and engagement, and a detailed review of the assessment results;
- A review of the AAMC Faculty Forward Program;
- Consideration of the role of faculty leadership in respecting various disciplines and specialties;
- AAMC's role in interprofessional health education and practice;
- The role of the CAS and especially the CAS Administrative Board in the new AAMC governance structure;
- Efforts to provide greater opportunities for CAS representatives to be engaged in AAMC and CAS activities;
- Improving bi-directional communication to and from CAS representatives and societies;
- The CAS's role in communicating to faculty more generally;
- The draft (and now final) ACGME Resident Duty Hour policy changes;
- AAMC initiatives on health care quality;
- The MR5 review of the MCAT; and
- Consideration of various proposed AAMC policies and programs.

The theme of the 2011 Spring Meeting, held in Providence, RH was *Sustaining Faculty and the Communities They Lead and Serve*. The meeting was attended by Logan Ludwig, former CAS Representative.

Leadership News and Items of Possible Interest is regularly provided to CAS representatives and forwarded to the AAHSL listserv. Reaction to these postings continues to be highly positive.

AAHSL representatives work closely with Tony Mazzaschi, AAMC Senior Director, Scientific Affairs. Mr. Mazzaschi is also an AAMC representative to the Chicago Collaborative.

Respectfully submitted:
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